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Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform

Dear Commissioners:

The Indiana State Library established in the first-half of 2007 a task force to study the issue of the parts of Indiana without library service. The un-served population in Indiana, defined as those citizens not paying taxes for library service, is estimated at 6.5% of the state's population, (395,232 people based upon the 2000 census). This task force agrees that one of the major issues facing our citizens is the lack of public library service for some of our citizens.

As the commissioners study solutions to reform local government, we strongly encourage you to recommend fixing the un-served issue related to library service. The Task Force reached consensus on the following issues for your consideration:

- Publicly supported library service should be universally available to all residents of Indiana.
- Indiana public libraries should provide fair and equitable service. All public libraries across the state, regardless of size, should meet minimum standards (as for such matters as staffing, collections, hours, and Internet connectivity) with individual library systems retaining the authority to exceed those standards.

Because of the complexities involved and the brief time the Task Force has been meeting, its members have not yet been able to study alternatives in sufficient depth to make a recommendation on the most efficient and effective way to extend library service to all.